

## **CHRONOLOGY OF U.S. - CUBAN RELATIONS, 1958-1998**

14 Mar 1958 -- The U.S. government suspends arms shipments to the Batista government.

Jan 1959 -- Revolutionary forces seize control of Havana.

7 Jan 1959 -- The United States recognizes the new Cuban government.

Jan 1959 -- Trials and executions of former Batista regime officials begin.

17 May 1959 -- Agrarian Reform Law expropriates farmlands over 1000 acres and forbids foreign land ownership.

8 May 1960 -- Diplomatic relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union resume.

28 Jun 1960 -- Castro confiscates American-owned oil refineries without compensation.

6 Aug 1960 -- Nationalization of U.S. and foreign-owned property in Cuba begins following the July suspension of Cuba's sugar quota to the U.S.

7 Aug 1960 -- The Cuban Catholic Church condemns rise of communism in Cuba. Castro bans religious TV and radio broadcasts.

19 Oct 1960 -- U.S. imposes economic embargo on Cuba, except food and medicine.

24 Oct 1960 -- Remaining American-owned property in Cuba nationalized.

3 Jan 1961 -- U.S. breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba after Cuban government demands a drastic reduction in U.S. Embassy staff within 48 hours.

17 Apr 1961 -- U.S.-supported Cuban exiles invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

2 Dec 1961 -- Castro declares, "I am a Marxist-Leninist, and will be one until the last day of my life."

22 Jan 1962 -- Cuban membership in the Organization of American States (OAS) is suspended.

7 Feb 1962 -- The U.S. government bans all Cuban imports and re-export of U.S. products to Cuba from other countries. The U.S. will also cut off aid to countries that furnish assistance to Cuba.

2 Oct 1962 -- U.S. ports are closed to nations allowing their ships to carry arms to Cuba, ships that have docked in a socialist country are prohibited from docking in the United States during that voyage, and the transport of U.S. goods is banned on ships owned by companies that trade with Cuba.

14 Oct 1962 -- The Cuban Missile Crisis begins when U.S. reconnaissance aircraft photograph Soviet construction of intermediate-range missile sites in Cuba.

26 Oct 1962 -- In a secret communication, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev agrees not to break the U.S. blockade and offers to withdraw Soviet missiles from Cuba if the United States pledges not to invade Cuba and if President Kennedy would order Jupiter missiles removed from Turkey.

27 Oct 1962 -- Cuba downs a U-2 plane. In a letter to Khrushchev, President Kennedy proposes immediate Soviet withdrawal of the missiles in exchange for an end to the blockade. Privately, the USG informs the Soviet Union it will withdraw U.S. missiles from Turkey once the crisis ends.

28 Oct 1962 -- Radio Moscow announces that the Soviet Union has accepted the proposed solution.

21 Nov 1962 -- President Kennedy terminates the quarantine measures against Cuba.

8 Feb 1963 -- The Kennedy administration prohibits travel to Cuba and makes financial and commercial transactions with Cuba illegal for U.S. citizens.

8 Jul 1963 -- All Cuban-owned assets in the United States are frozen.

Jul 1964 -- Members of the OAS vote to enact economic sanctions and to break diplomatic links with Cuba because of its support for subversive activities in Venezuela.

Oct 1965 -- Over 3000 Cubans leave in a boatlift from Camarioca to the United States.

6 Nov 1965 -- Beginning of the Freedom Flights program, which allows 250,000 Cubans to come to the United States by 1971.

1966 -- Father Miguel Laredo is tried for allegedly assisting in the attempted escape of a Cubana Airlines engineer. In addition, priests and other clergymen are required to enter into military service.

2 Nov 1966 -- The Cuban Adjustment Act allows 123,000 Cubans to apply for permanent residence in the U.S.

2 Jan 1968 -- Castro announces petroleum rationing.

13 Mar 1968 -- The Great Revolutionary Offensive is launched, culminating in the nationalization of the remaining private sector and mobilization of manpower for agricultural production.

2 Jan 1969 -- Castro announces sugar rationing.

Jul 1972 -- Cuba joins the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the communist bloc trade association.

Feb 1973 -- U.S. and Cuba sign anti-hijacking agreement

Oct 1973 -- Cuba sends 500 tank drivers to aid Syria during the Yom Kippur War.

Nov 1974 -- Assistant Secretary of State William Rogers and Assistant to the Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger conduct secret normalization talks with Cuban officials in Washington and New York. The talks end over Cuban involvement in Angola.

29 Jul 1975 -- OAS members vote to lift collective sanctions against Cuba. The U.S. government welcomes the action and announces its intention to open serious discussions with Cuba on normalization.

Aug 1975 -- U.S. modifies trade embargo to allow U.S. subsidiaries in third countries to trade with Cuba.

Oct 1975 -- Cuba begins deployment of 35,000 combat troops to support the Marxist regime in Angola.

20 Dec 1975 -- President Ford declares that Cuban involvement in Angola and support of the Puerto Rican independence movement ends efforts to improve relations.

22 Dec 1975 -- Castro declares continued support for revolutionary movements in Angola and Puerto Rico.

24 Feb 1976 -- Under a new constitution, Castro becomes head of the government as of President of the Council of Ministers, commander of the armed forces, and First Secretary of the communist party. The PCC is institutionalized within the formal governmental structure. Article 54 prohibits the practice of faith or the establishment of religious organizations in opposition to revolutionary principles.

18 Mar 1977 -- U.S. government lifts prohibition on travel to Cuba and allows U.S. citizens to spend \$100 on Cuban goods during their visits.

Apr 1977 -- 200 Cuban trainers arrive in Ethiopia. Cuba supports the Katangan rebellion, causing the government of Zaire to break-off diplomatic relations. Cuba maintains troops in the Congo, Mozambique, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Equatorial Guinea.

27 Apr 1977 -- The United States and Cuba sign agreements on fishing rights and maritime boundaries.

Sep 1977 -- The United States and Cuba open interests sections in each other's capitals.

Jan 1978 -- Cuba begins deployment of 20,000 troops to Ethiopia.

31 Jul 1978 -- Castro calls for the removal of U.S. bases from Guantanamo Bay. Bombings of the Cuban United Nations Mission, the Cuban Interests Section, and the Soviet Mission by anti-Castro exile groups follow throughout the fall. In December, the U.S. government announces that the full force of the law will be used against those responsible for these terrorist actions.

Jul 1979 -- Cuban-supported *Sandinistas* overthrow the government of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua.

30 Aug 1979 -- Senator Frank Church, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, announces discovery of a Soviet combat brigade of 3000 troops in Cuba.

1 Oct 1979 -- President Carter reaffirms that troops from Cuba would not be permitted to move against neighboring countries and establishes a Caribbean Joint Task Force Headquarters in Florida.

Apr 1980 -- 10,000 Cubans storm the Peruvian embassy in Havana seeking political asylum. After the easing of immigration restrictions, a flotilla of refugees (eventually 125,000) begins an exodus from the port of Mariel in Cuba for the United States.

14 May 1980 -- President Carter demands that the Cuban government impose an orderly departure and orders a blockade to prevent private boats from traveling to Cuba to pick up refugees. The Cuban government closes Mariel harbor in September.

11 Sep 1980 -- An attache of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations is assassinated by anti-Castro terrorists. Secretary of State Muskie issues a statement terming the murder "reprehensible."

22 Dec 1980 -- The first of several meetings between U.S. and Cuban officials to discuss the repatriation of the *Marielitos* occurs.

23 Sep 1981 -- The U.S. government announces plans to establish *Radio Marti* to broadcast to Cuba.

Feb 1982 -- U.S. adds Cuba to list of countries supporting international terrorism for its support of the M-19 movement in Colombia.

Mar 1982 -- U.S. envoy Vernon Walters meets with Castro in Havana to discuss outstanding issues.

9 Apr 1982 -- Charter air links between Miami and Havana are halted by the U.S. government.

19 Apr 1982 -- USG effectively bans travel to Cuba by prohibiting monetary expenditures in Cuba by U.S. citizens.

25 Oct 1983 -- The U.S. intervention in Grenada begins following a leftist coup and the discovery that Cubans are being used to build an airstrip that could have been used for military aircraft.

11 Jan 1984 -- A presidential commission on Central America headed by Henry Kissinger reports that the Soviet and Cuban intervention in the region has created a major security problem for the United States.

31 July 1984 -- U.S. and Cuban officials hold talks on migration issues.

14 Dec 1984 -- The United States and Cuba conclude a migration pact under which Cuba agrees to accept the return of *Marielitos*.

21 Jan 1985 -- U.S. bishops visit Cuba. They meet with Castro and request the release of 250 political prisoners.

20 May 1985 -- *Radio Marti* begins broadcasts to Cuba. The Cuban government immediately jams the signal. Castro later suspends the 1984 U.S.-Cuban immigration agreement.

1986 -- The Cuban government begins to grant long-term visas to foreign priests and nuns.

19 Nov 1987 -- The United States and Cuba conclude a new immigration pact which reinstates the 1984 agreement.

Mar 1988 -- The UN Human Rights Commission sends a team to report on the human rights situation in Cuba.

23 Aug 1988 -- President Reagan signs a trade act that ends licensing requirements for importing recordings, printed material, and other media from Cuba.

Nov 1988 -- At the intercession of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Cuba agrees to release 44 political prisoners.

20 Nov 1989 -- The Treasury Department limits travel related expenses for U.S. citizens to Cuba at \$100 per day.

23 Mar 1990 -- The first test of *TV Marti* is launched. It is jammed by the Cuban government.

6 Mar 1991 -- The U.N. Commission on Human Rights approves resolution requesting the appointment of a U.N. special representative to examine the human rights situation in Cuba.

20 May 1991 -- In a meeting with Cuban dissidents, President Bush calls for Castro to release political prisoners and hold elections.

11 Sep 1991 -- Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev states that he will withdraw all Soviet troops from Cuba.

1991 -- The Fourth Communist Party Congress resolves to allow members of religious groups to join the party.

Dec 1991 -- Termination of Soviet economic subsidies worth approximately \$6 billion annually.

3 March 1992 -- U.N. Commission on Human Rights approves resolution urging Cuba to cooperate with the U.N. special representative.

Jul 1992 -- Changes to the Cuban constitution include measures to attract foreign investment without compromising Castro's hold on power. The official designation of the Cuban government is changed from "atheist" to "secular." Religious discrimination is also forbidden.

15 Oct 1992 -- Congress passes the Cuban Democracy Act, which prohibits foreign-based subsidiaries of U.S. companies from trading with Cuba, travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens, and family remittances to Cuba. The law allows private groups to deliver food and medicine to Cuba.

1 Oct 1993 -- The United States and Cuba reach an agreement at the working level on the repatriation of 1500 criminal Cuban migrants. High level GOC approval was never forthcoming.

Aug 1994 -- Following Castro's declaration of an open migration policy, a new boat lift begins when 30,000 refugees set sail from Cuba as economic conditions continue to deteriorate. A "picket line" established by the U.S. Coast Guard prevents additional seaborne migrations.

1 Sep 1994 -- Talks on migration open in New York City between Cuban and U.S. officials.

9 Sep 1994 -- The U.S. and Cuba issue a joint communique agreeing to take measures to ensure that migration between the two countries is safe, legal, and orderly. The U.S. agrees that total legal migration to the U.S. will be a minimum of 20,000 per year.

2 May 1995 -- The U.S. and Cuba issue a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to promote safe, legal, and orderly migration. Under this accord, Cubans interdicted at sea or who enter the Guantanamo Naval Base illegally are returned to Cuba provided that they do not have any protection concerns. Returned Cubans are monitored by personnel from the United States Interests Section.

5 Oct 1995 -- President Clinton announces measures to expand people-to-people contacts between the U.S. and Cuba, to allow U.S. NGO's to fund projects in Cuba, and to provide AID funding to U.S. NGO's for Cuba-related projects.

Nov 1995 -- The *Concilio Cubano* is formed to organize the first human rights conference in which all human rights groups on the island were expected to participate.

Jan 1996 -- The GOC denies *Concilio* legal recognition. *Concilio* requests permission for the conference to take place February 24, 1996.

Feb 1996 -- The GOC begins an island-wide crackdown on *Concilio Cubano*. During the next 3 months over 200 *Concilio* leaders and supporters would be arrested, interrogated, and harassed.

24 Feb 1996 -- Cuban MIGs shoot down in international airspace two civilian aircraft belonging to the Miami-based group Brothers to the Rescue. Three U.S. citizens and one Cuban resident of the U.S. are killed.

12 Mar 1996 -- President Clinton signs the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (*Libertad*) Act which enacts penalties on foreign companies doing business in Cuba, permits U.S. citizens to sue foreign investors who make use of American-owned property seized by the Cuban government, and denies entry into the U.S. to such foreign investors.

16 Jul 1996 -- President Clinton suspends enforcement of Title III provisions of the *Libertad* Act permitting suits to be filed in U.S. courts against foreign investors who are profiting from U.S.-claimed confiscated property. Title III itself is allowed to go into effect on Aug. 1.

19 Nov 1996 -- Pope John Paul II receives Castro at the Vatican. The Pope accepts an invitation to visit Cuba.

16 Aug 1996 -- President Clinton appoints Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat as the Special Representative for the Promotion of Democracy in Cuba.

2 Dec 1996 -- The European Union adopts the Common Position on Cuba, conditioning developmental assistance to Cuba on fundamental, democratic change.

3 Jan 1997 -- President Clinton suspends the right to sue under provisions of Title III, pointing to the progress made under the U.S.-led multilateral initiative to promote democratic change in Cuba.

28 Jan 1997 -- The President releases a report on assistance the U.S. and rest of the international community would provide to a transition government in Cuba.

12 Feb 1997 -- The Administration approves licenses for U.S. news organizations to open bureaus in Cuba. Only CNN is allowed in by the Cuban Government.

11 Apr 1997 -- U.S.-EU Understanding. The EU agrees to suspend WTO case against the *Libertad* Act and other components of U.S. legislation. The U.S. and EU agree to work together to develop binding international disciplines to deter investment in confiscated property. U.S. agrees to seek presidential waiver authority for Title IV of the *Libertad* Act if such disciplines are developed and adhered to.



16 Jul 1997 -- Cuban state security arrests the Dissident Working Group on charges of enemy propaganda.

16 Jul 1997 -- President Clinton for the third time suspends the right to sue under provisions of Title III.

Aug-Dec 1997 -- USG approves a license request by the Archdiocese of Miami to charter a cruise ship to take pilgrims to Cuba during the Pope's visit, and licenses for other religious groups and media to use charter aircraft to go to Cuba for the Pope's visit.

16 Jan 1998 -- President Clinton for the fourth time suspends the right to sue under provisions of Title III.

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